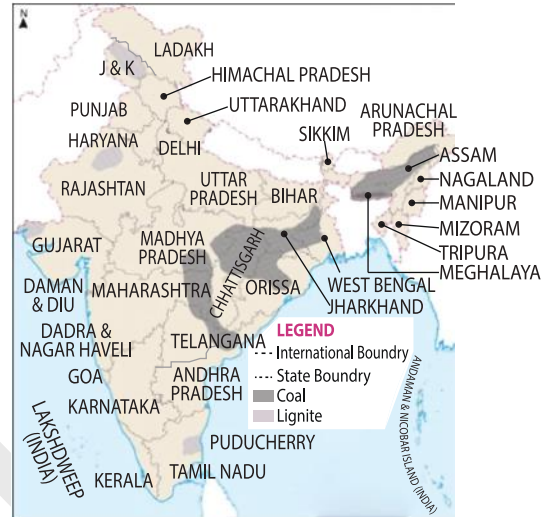


NEWS TODAY

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING LAND ACQUISITION UNDER COAL BEARING AREAS (CBA) ACT, 1957

- Proposal is to acquire land and then **lease it to private players to expedite development of coal blocks** allocated for commercial mining.
 - > Currently, CBA Act is **used for acquisition of land for use by state-owned coal mining companies**, such as Coal India Ltd (CIL).
 - > **Major issues faced by coal projects:** delays in obtaining Environmental and Forest Clearances, possession of land and issues related to resettlement & rehabilitation.
- In June 2020, **Commercialisation of coal** was announced as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan .
 - > Under this government launched auction process of 41 coal blocks for commercial mining.
 - > Commercial mining allows **private sector to mine coal commercially without placing any end-use restrictions** i.e. they can use it for their own end-use plants or sell them in markets, unlike earlier captive use model.
 - Undercaptive use model, private sector firms were **only allowed to mine coal for use in their cement, steel, power and aluminium plants** i.e. for their own use.
- **Commercial coal mining** will help meet the country's energy needs, attract investments & best-in-class technology, reduce dependence on imports, generate jobs etc.



NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU (NCRB) RELEASED PRISON STATISTICS INDIA 2019

- **Key findings:**
 - > **Number of prisoners:** 4,78,600 prisoners were confined in various jails with Convicts, Undertrial inmates and Detenues accounting for 30.11%, 69.05% and 0.67% respectively.
 - > **Composition:** Scheduled Castes accounted for 21.7% of convicts and 21% of undertrials; Scheduled Tribes accounted for 13.6% of convicts and 10.5% of undertrials; and Muslims, 16.6% of convicts and 18.7% of undertrials.
 - Marginalised groups **face trouble in accessing judicial remedies and their proportion in jails are higher** while comparing it with their proportion to population.
 - > **Age group:** maximum inmates were belonging to the age group 18- 30 years(43.4%) followed by 30- 50 years (43.3%).
 - > **Education:** Below class X (41.6%), Class X & above but below Graduation (21.5%)
- **NCRB was set up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs**, on the recommendation of National Police Commission (1977-1981) and MHA task force (1985), to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals.
 - > NCRB data **facilitates evidence-based policy making** and helps to plan crime prevention strategies for future.

8TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING (EAS-EMM)

- **Key takeaways:**
 - > **Strengthening regional supply chains** to make them resilient and less vulnerable to shocks and to advance sustainable economic growth.
 - > Acknowledged initiatives which aim **to ensure equitable global distribution of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.**
 - > Recognized facilitating **essential movement of people across borders**, without undermining each country's efforts to prevent spread of virus, to stabilize trade and investment.
 - > Acknowledged **contribution of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).**
 - > **Support for ASEAN and ASEAN-centred architecture** which could contribute to post-pandemic recovery in region.
 - > Support for **World Trade Organisation reforms.**
- India, reiterated **that Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative does not mean a protectionist India** and is about upscaling growth of Indian industry, its skills and capabilities to make them resilient and less vulnerable to shocks and integrating industries with global supply chains
- **East Asia Summit is a forum of 18 countries** of Asia-Pacific region formed to further the objectives of regional peace, security and prosperity.

MEASUREMENT AND MONITORING OF WATER SUPPLY TO BE DONE UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION (JJM)

- JJM has decided to create a **smart rural water supply eco-system to measure and monitor the service delivery** of water supply in rural areas.
 - > Use of modern technology will ensure quality of service and facilitate rural local bodies in **Smart management of rural water supply.**
 - **As per 73rd Amendment to the Constitution**, Gram Panchayats at village level are to manage drinking water supply.
 - > Thus, Gram Panchayats or its sub-committee, i.e. **Village Water & Sanitation Committee are required to function as a 'local public utility'** for drinking water management, water service delivery, greywater treatment & reuse.
- **Other steps being taken:**
 - > **JJM has constituted a Technical Expert Committee** to prepare a road map for measurement and monitoring of water service delivery system in rural areas.
 - > **JJM to conduct ICT grand challenge** to develop a Smart Water Supply Measurement and Monitoring System.
 - > **Use of technological advancements** (such as IoT, Big Data Analytics) to digitise water supply infrastructure.
- JJM, being implemented in partnership with States, **aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household by 2024.**



MEASLES VACCINE HOLDING BACK INDIA'S FULL IMMUNISATION DRIVE

• Poor coverage of measles vaccination and **later doses of basic vaccines like those for polio, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT)** are pulling down the proportion of fully-immunised children in India (see infographic).

> This meant that India's **proportion of fully immunised children** remained at around 60% in 2017-18.

• **A child is considered to be fully immunised** if she has received BCG, 3 doses of Polio Vaccine, 3 shots of DPT vaccine and measles vaccine. All these, if delivered on schedule, are within child's first year, with measles being the last.

• **Key reasons:**

> **Diluted impact of Mission Indradhanush** when it was **extended to more districts** instead of focusing on children who are unvaccinated, or are partially vaccinated.

➤ It was launched in 2014 to **ensure full immunization** for children up to two years of age and pregnant women.


> Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) are **paid very poorly**.

> Tech platforms and mobile-based applications to track data have been unsuccessful due to **limited knowledge and training of health workers**.

➤ **Mother and Child Tracking** System launched in 2009, leverages information technology for tracking of immunisation services.

OUT OF COVERAGE AREA

Vaccine	Coverage (%)	To Be Given At
BCG	94.1	Birth
OPV	93.9	Birth
OPV-1	92.4	6th week
OPV-2	87.8	10th week
OPV-3	80.6	14th week
DPT-1	91.0	6th week
DPT-2	86.5	10th week
DPT-3	78.0	14th week
Measles	67.0	9-12 months



ALSO IN NEWS

<p>Indian Navy deployed warship in South China Sea (SCS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment was done after Galwan valley clash. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Several countries bordering SCS: China, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam. • China has been objecting to presence of Indian Navy ships in the region. • Indian Navy had also deployed its frontline vessels along Malacca Strait, from where Chinese Navy enters Indian Ocean Region, to keep a check on any activity of the Chinese Navy.
<p>States asked to identify persons with disabilities (PwD) for ration cards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre has asked States and UTs to identify PwD eligible under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 and issue ration cards to those left out. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Under NFSA, State Governments/UTs are responsible to evolve criteria for identification of priority households and their actual identification. • NFSA covers upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Coverage of 75%/50% for rural/urban population is at all India level, corresponding to which, State-wise coverage has been determined by Central Government for each State/UT.
<p>Roll On Roll Off (RORO) train services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First ever RORO service of South Western Railway was started from Nelamangla (near Bengaluru) to Bale (near Solapur). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > RORO service was first introduced in Indian Railways by Konkan Railways in 1999. • RORO is a concept of carrying road vehicles loaded with various commodities, on open flat railway wagons. • Advantages of RO-RO: Faster movement of goods and essentials, reducing Time taken by trucks to reach destination; reduces congestion on the roads; Saves precious fuel; reduces carbon footprint.
<p>Hangenberg crisis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth suffered an intense loss of species diversity (around 359 million years ago) that lasted for at least 300,000 years. • The event is thought to have been caused by long-lasting ozone depletion, which would have allowed much more of the Sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation to reach and harm life on Earth. • It was called the Hangenberg crisis.
<p>Pantanal, Brazil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is World's Largest Wetland and sprawls over more than 150,000 sq km in Brazil and also extends into Bolivia and Paraguay. • It is burning as vegetation compacted under the marshy flood water during the wet season dries out as ponds and lagoons evaporate, leaving flammable deposits underground.
<p>Andromeda galaxy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andromeda galaxy, also known as M31 is a spiral of perhaps as many as 1 trillion stars and comparable in size to Milky Way galaxy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > It is the closest (nearly 2.5 million light years) big galaxy to Milky Way. • Recently, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have mapped the immense envelope of gas, called a halo, surrounding Andromeda galaxy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > This halo extends 1.3 million light-years from the galaxy—about halfway to Milky Way which means that Andromeda's halo is already bumping into the halo of Milky Way.
<p>Kavkaz 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has withdrawn from Kavkaz multi-nation military exercise in Russia citing logistics difficulties due to COVID-19 pandemic. • Kavkaz is the Russian strategic command and staff exercise. Some 20 countries are participating in this exercise including China, Pakistan.
<p>Telugu Language Day</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is observed on birth anniversary of Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy (29th August) who had strived for the development and in popularising Telugu language. • Telugu is one of the languages mentioned in 8th schedule and also one of the 6 classical languages of India. • Other classical languages: Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.

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